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Message from George Dennison regarding housing situation in Missoula

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October 1, 1991

To: Kaimin, KUFM and local media

From: George M. Dennison

The University of Montana shares serious concern with students and various community organizations and groups about the housing situation in Missoula. I have personally assured student groups that the University will work closely with other interested individuals and agencies to develop a solution to the problem. To that end, the University has participated actively in the Housing Roundtable, a community group organized to focus attention upon the issue. Discussions to date have led to a tentative agreement about the need for some form of local entity to facilitate the efforts to increase available housing stock. On Monday, 7 October, representatives from the County, City, University, Associate Students of The University of Montana, and several other organizations will meet to outline strategies for the development of such an entity.

The University will also continue to make available temporary quarters for those students we cannot accommodate in the residence halls. We currently have an overflow of male students, but we do have some vacant spaces for female students. We will continue to accept female students so long as space remains available. In addition, we will do all that we can to accommodate male students in the residence halls. Typically some occupants either move or decide to leave school within the first few days of the term. As that occurs, we will promptly reassign the space to students wishing to occupy it.

The University will also explore the means to provide additional assistance to students seeking housing in the community and to those in the community wishing to rent housing space. Whether the assistance takes the form of additional coordination within the staff of the Housing Office on campus or in working cooperatively with existing coordinators representing the Associated Students of The University of Montana or other community agencies remains to be determined. We are committed to providing some assistance, as resources permit.

As mentioned, the University recognizes the serious problems created by the housing shortage in the community. We will do all that we can, working in concert with other interested individuals and groups, to resolve the problems.

cc: University deans, directors and chairs

GMD/dd/dp